

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 115453
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 DODE-00 PM-05 HA-05 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 /053 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN DWELTER:WMATTHEWS:NAB

APPROVED BY ARA: JBUSHNELL

L.GLEHNER

DOD/ISA:WSMITH

-----030374 052322Z /66

O 052214Z MAY 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 115453

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CS, NU

SUBJECT: ALLEGED AMERICAN MERCENARIES

REF: (A) MANAGUA 1663 (B) MANAGUA 1716 (C)DIA 122351Z 4/78
(D) MANAGUA 1960 (E) MANAGUA 1976

1. DEPARTMENT CONCURS WITH DEFENSE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION AS OUTLINED REF C AGAINST USE OF MERCENARIES AS INTELLIGENCE SOURCES. U.S. CITIZENS IN QUESTION SHOULD FURTHER BE INFORMED THAT ANY PARTICIPATION BY THEM IN ACTIVITIES INVOLVING CLEAR VIOLATIONS OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS SUCH AS TORTURE, CRUEL AND INHUMANE TREATMENT OR KILLING IN NON-COMBAT SITUATIONS OF PRISONERS, DEMONSTRATORS OR INSURGENTS, AS WELL AS VIOLATION OF THE TERRITORY OF NEIGHBORING STATES OR RECOMMENDATION IN THE COURSE OF

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THEIR DUTIES TO GON AUTHORITIES THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES BE ENGAGED IN WOULD BE HARMFUL TO U.S./NICARAGUAN RELATIONS AND AGAINST U.S. POLICY. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND AGAINST ANY SUCH ACTIONS.

2. DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH COURSE OF ACTION OUTLINED PARA. 3 REFTEL B.

3. AMBASSADOR IS REQUESTED TO RAISE WITH PRESIDENT ISSUE OF U.S. CITIZEN MERCENARIES EMPLOYED BY NATIONAL GUARD. HE SHOULD BROACH SUBJECT BY REMINDING HIM OF SPORADIC RUMORS AND ALLEGATIONS OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL INVOLVEMENT IN GON OPERATIONS AND STATE THAT INFORMATION HAS NOW REACHED EMBASSY TENDING TO SUPPORT SOME OF THESE ALLEGATIONS. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT WE HAVE BECOME AWARE OF SPECIFIC PROPOSALS AUTHORED BY U.S. CITIZENS ALLEGEDLY IN EMPLOY OF NATIONAL GUARD. WE UNDERSTAND THOSE PROPOSALS INCLUDE ONE FOR COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATIONS INVOLVING DIRECT ACTION AGAINST FSLN ELEMENTS IN COSTA RICA. PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT A NEW ADMINISTRATION IS ABOUT TO ASSUME OFFICE IN COSTA RICA, WE ASSUME THAT SUCH A COURSE IS NOT EVEN BEING SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED AT PRESENT. WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH THE COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT-ELECT REGARDING FSLN ACTIVITIES IN THAT COUNTRY, AND HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE FULLY INTENDS TO ADHERE TO COSTA RICA'S INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN THAT REGARD. SOMOZA SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT THE U.S.G. WOULD, THEREFORE, TAKE VERY STRONG EXCEPTION TO ANY SUCH ACTION IN COSTA RICA BY NICARAGUAN FORCES AND THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER OUR RESPONSE TO ANY SUCH INITIATIVE. THE THREAT OF TERMINATION OF IMET AND WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. MILGROUP PERSONNEL (PARA. 3 ITEM C OF REFTEL D) SHOULD NOT, REPEAT NOT, BE BROACHED TO SOMOZA.

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4. YOU SHOULD ALSO TELL SOMOZA THAT THE PRESENCE AND ROLE OF AMERICANS PAID BY THE NATIONAL GUARD, PARTICULARLY IN AN OPERATIONAL CAPACITY, IS A POTENTIAL AREA OF FRICTION IN OUR RELATIONS.

5. AMBASSADOR SHOULD SEEK FROM SOMOZA OR OTHERS AN ACCOUNTING, WITHOUT SEEKING IDENTITIES, OF NUMBER, DUTIES, TERMS OF CONTRACT AND MEANS AND PLACE OF RECRUITMENT OF ALL U.S. CITIZENS EMPLOYED BY NATIONAL GUARD. FYI: (PRIVACY ACT CONSIDERATIONS AT THIS STAGE MILITATE AGAINST IDENTIFICATION BY NAME.)

6. AMBASSADOR MIGHT ALSO USE THIS OCCASION TO EXPRESS OUR SATISFACTION WITH REPORTS OF FULL COOPERATION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CURRENTLY INSPECTING PRISONS IN NICARAGUA AND WITH REPORTS THAT SOMOZA HAS TAKEN ACTION TO IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT FOR SOME PRISONERS CONVICTED OR CHARGED WITH POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMES. CHRISTOPHER

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /015 R

DRAFTED BY:ARA/CEN:DWELTER
APPROVED BY:ARACEN:WMATTHEWS
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TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 115453

FOR DEPASSTSEC SALLY SHELTON BUR OF INTER-AMER. AFF

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 115453 ACTION MANAGUA INF CARACAS
SAN JOSE TEGUCIGALPA MAY 5

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